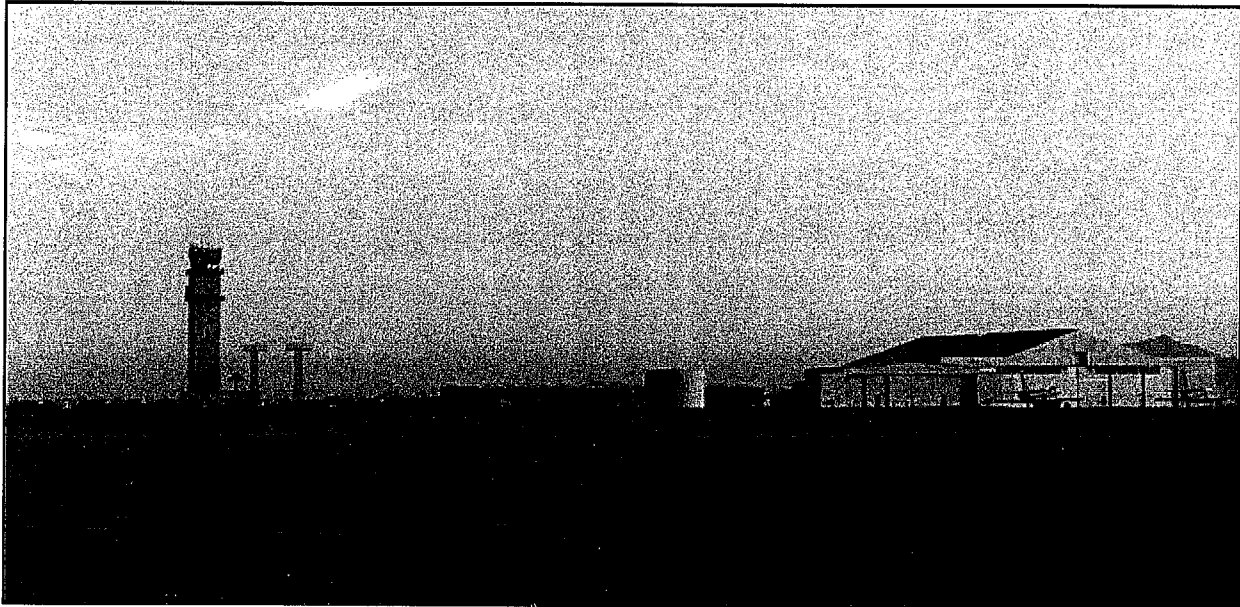




INTRODUCTION

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The Williams Gateway Airport Master Plan is a cooperative effort between the Williams Gateway Airport Authority (WGAA) and Arizona Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division (ADOT). This Airport Master Plan Update is a comprehensive analysis of airport facility needs and alternatives with the purpose of providing guidance for the future development of this facility.

The preparation of this Master Plan is evidence that the WGAA recognizes the importance of Williams Gateway Airport to the community and the region, as well as the associated challenges inherent in accommodating future aviation needs. The cost of maintaining an airport is an investment which yields impressive benefits to a community. A sound and flexible Master Plan will ensure that Williams Gateway Airport continues to be a major economic asset for the region.

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the Airport Master Plan is to develop and maintain a long-term development program which will yield a safe, efficient, economical, and environmentally acceptable air transportation facility. The accomplishment of this objective requires the evaluation of the existing airport and a determination of what actions should be taken to maintain an adequate, safe, and reliable airport facility which meets the needs of the area. The completed Master Plan will provide an outline of the necessary development and give responsible officials advance notice of future needs to aid in planning, scheduling, and budgeting.

Specific objectives of this Master Plan are:

- Re-examine recommended direction from the 1993 Master Plan.

Determine projected needs of airport users through the year 2020.

- Identify existing and future facility needs.
- Evaluate and identify airport security requirements.
- Produce current and accurate airport base maps and Airport Layout Plans.
- Establish a schedule of development priorities and a program for improvements.
- Evaluate alternative means for providing required facilities.
- Evaluate possible long term land acquisition measures needed to promote orderly airport growth.
- Prepare a detailed financial plan which would evaluate future airport revenues and expenses.
- Ensure that future development is environmentally compatible.
- Conduct an Economic Benefit Analysis.
- Coordinate this Master Plan with local, regional, state, and federal agencies.
- Develop active and productive public involvement through the planning process.

To accomplish the objectives of this study, the Master Plan:

- Inventories and analyzes data pertinent to the airport, its environs, and the area it serves.
- Collects and analyzes general economic factors and evaluates the area's aviation activity.
- Forecasts aviation activity through the year 2020.
- Determines facility requirements for the airport.
- Examines alternative ways the required facilities can be provided.
- Proposes an airport layout plan which is compatible with both aviation demands and the local environment.
- Schedules priorities, phases proposed development, and estimates development costs.
- Identifies and evaluates capital improvement funding sources.

The Airport Master Plan for Williams Gateway Airport was funded by the Arizona Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division and WGAA. Technical work was conducted by Coffman Associates, Ross and Baruzzini Engineering, and Gilbertson Associates. An airport Economic Benefit Study was prepared by Dr. Lee McPheters with the Economic Outlook Center at Arizona State University.

In addition to the consultants and WGAA staff, a Planning Advisory Committee was established to review draft materials on the project and provide comment and input throughout

the study to help ensure that a realistic, viable plan was developed. A series of public information workshops were also held to allow the public to provide input and learn about the study.